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AREA 88

by KAORU SHINTANI

BIWEEKLY

Behind Enemy Lines,
Rocky Seeks Safety
In This Land of Fire,
This Land of War

9

RESCUE

VIZ COMICS

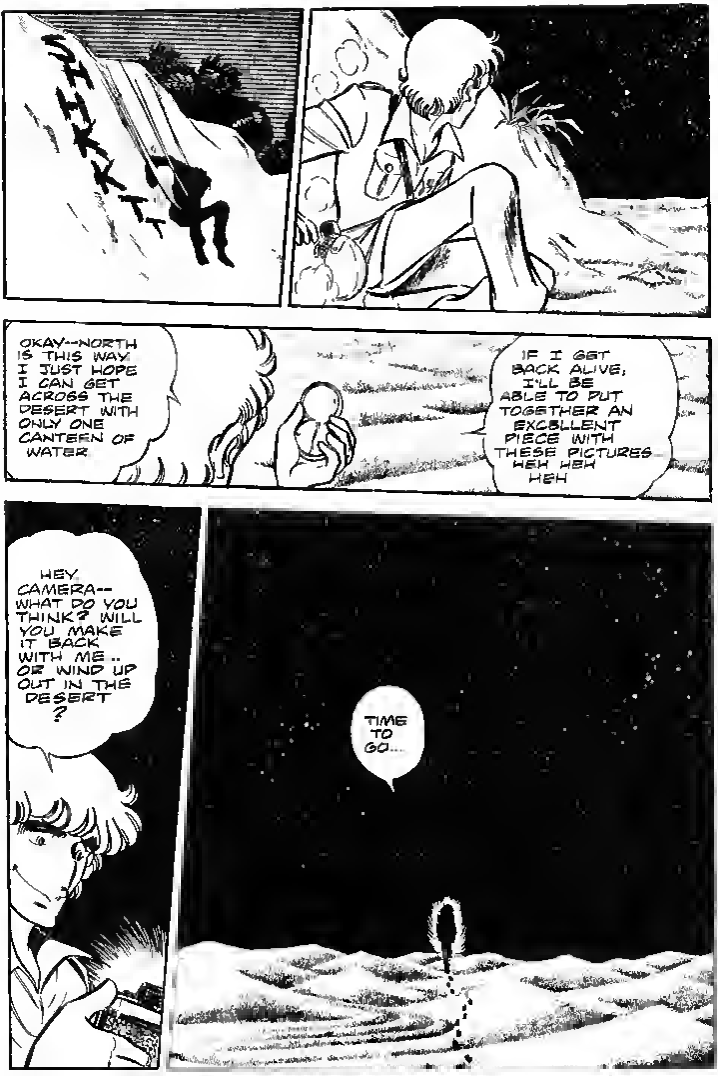
CRACK
SHHTKK
COLEMAN TWO, COME IN!! COLEMAN, DO YOU READ ME?!
COLEMAN TWO! WE CAN'T IDENTIFY YOUR CURRENT POSITION!
THIS IS AREA 80, COLEMAN TWO!!
WHAT A NOISY RADIO!
KYKL
WEEEOOO
CRUNCH

SCANNED BY
HIKARU

MISSION 9

The HORIZON of ANGER

DAMN. WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! CRASHING BEHIND ENEMY LINES!
OUCH! I MUST HAVE TWISTED MY ANKLE.
Nikon
I CAN'T LET THEM HAVE THIS, EVEN IF THEY CATCH ME.
NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.


OKAY--NORTH IS THIS WAY. I JUST HOPE I CAN GET ACROSS THE DESERT WITH ONLY ONE CANTEEN OF WATER
IF I GET BACK ALIVE, I'LL BE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER AN EXCELLENT PIECE WITH THESE PICTURES. HEH HEH HEH
HEY, CAMERA-- WHAT DO YOU THINK? WILL YOU MAKE IT BACK WITH ME.. OR WIND UP OUT IN THE DESERT ?
TIME TO GO...

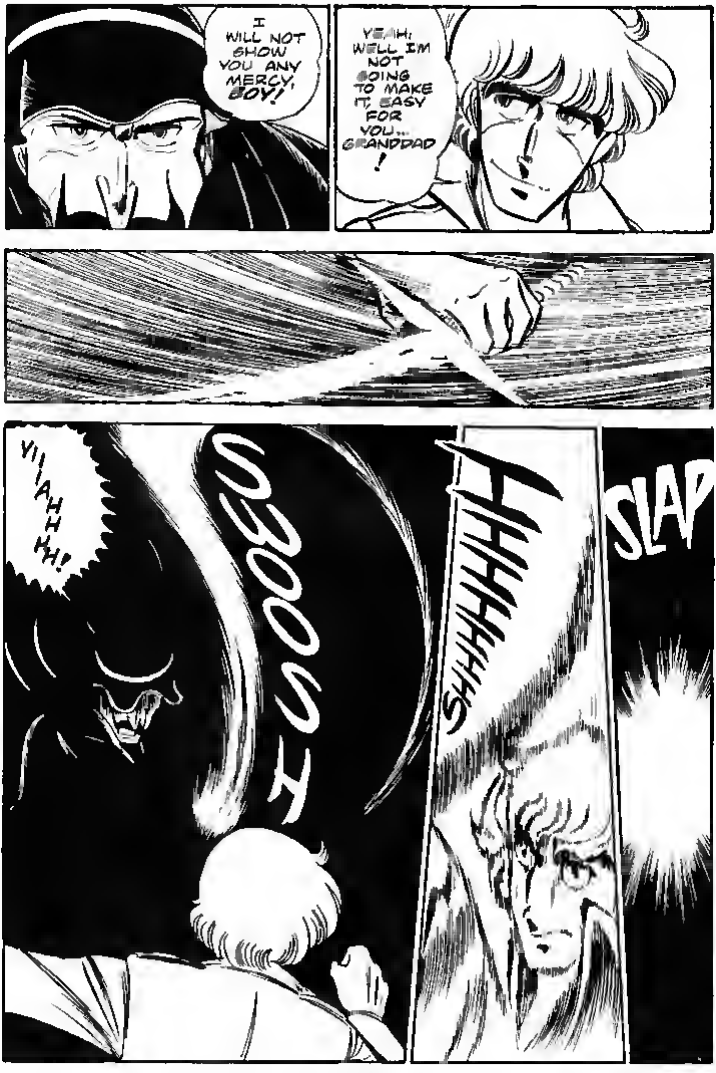
HAVENT YOU FOUND OUT WHERE ROCKY'S HELI-COPTER IS YET ?
NO IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN
HE SEEMS TO HAVE THE KIND OF GOOD LUCK ONLY BASTARDS HAVE. HE'LL BE BACK.
WE CAN'T WASTE ANY TIME OVER THAT REPORTER. I HAVE TO BEGIN THE BRIEFING ON TONIGHT'S OPER-ATION. COME TO THE BRIEFING ROOM IMMEDIATELY!
DON'T YOU FEEL CONCERNED, SHIN? HE'S JAPANESE, TOO.
.....

WHEW
IN ONE DAY, I MEET A A MAN, AND THEN HE'S GONE..
IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, I WON'T FEEL TOO BAD.
UNFORTUNATELY, DISAPPEARING FROM AREA 88 MEANS DISAPPEARING FROM THIS WORLD...
INTO THE WORLD OF DEATH ON ANY DAY, I MIGHT VANISH TOO.
ROCKY.. I HOPE YOU SURVIVE..

KILL HIM!
HE'S A SPY!
ARE YOU AFRAID OF FIGHTING ME ONE ON ONE?!
YOU CAN'T BE PROUD OF KILLING A DEFENSELESS MAN!
THE HELL YOU WILL! I'M A REPORTER FOR THE NP NEWS SERVICE! YOU CAN'T CUT OFF MY HEAD SO EASILY!
YOUNG MAN WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO FIND OUR CARAVAN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL YOU.

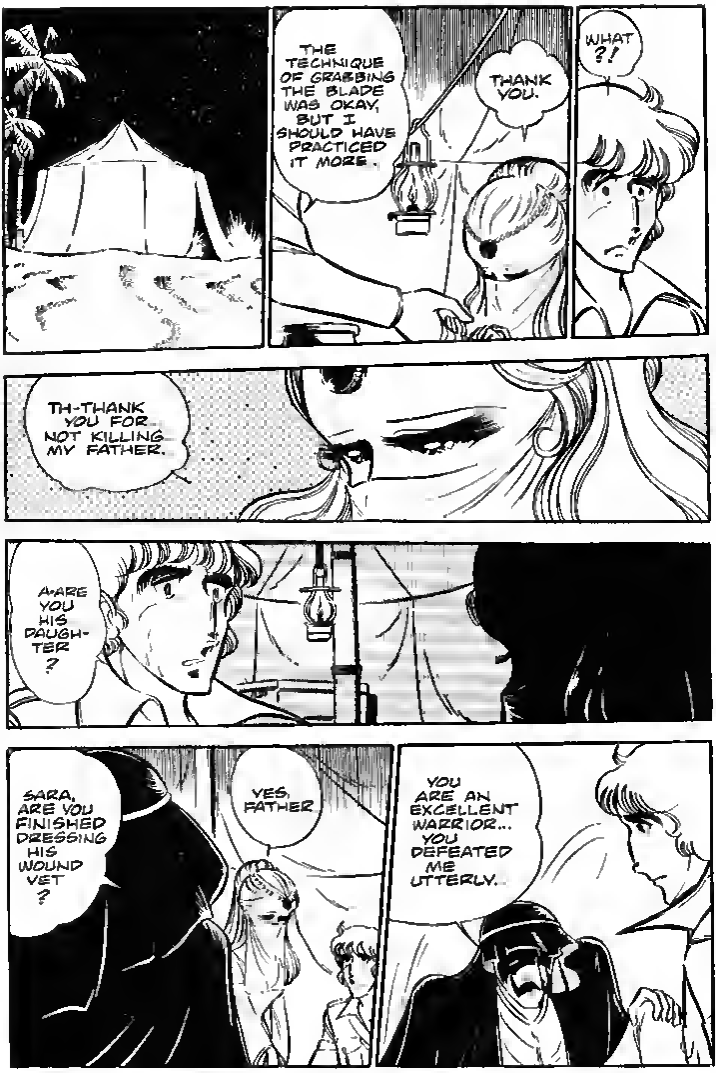
SOMEONE GIVE HIM A SWORD!
HOW ABOUT MINE?
SAIFA...
THANKS. THIS KNIFE MUST BE REALLY SHARP, BELONGING TO A BEAUTIFUL LADY AS IT DOES.
SHHKK
BEGIN!!

CLANG
SCRAPE
CHING
SHAK
WHAT'S THIS?! ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LET ME CUT OFF YOUR HEAD?
IF I KEEP USING THIS BLADE, IT WILL HURT THE EDGE. BESIDES, I KNOW HOW TO FIGHT YOU NOW. I UNDERSTAND YOUR TECHNIQUE.
HERE YOU ARE, MISS. THIS KNIFE WILL PROTECT YOU UNTIL YOU MARRY SOMEONE.
.....


I WILL NOT SHOW YOU ANY MERCY, BOY!
YEAH! WELL I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU... GRANDDAD!
SLAP
HHHHHHHS
SSOOOSH
YIIAHHHH!

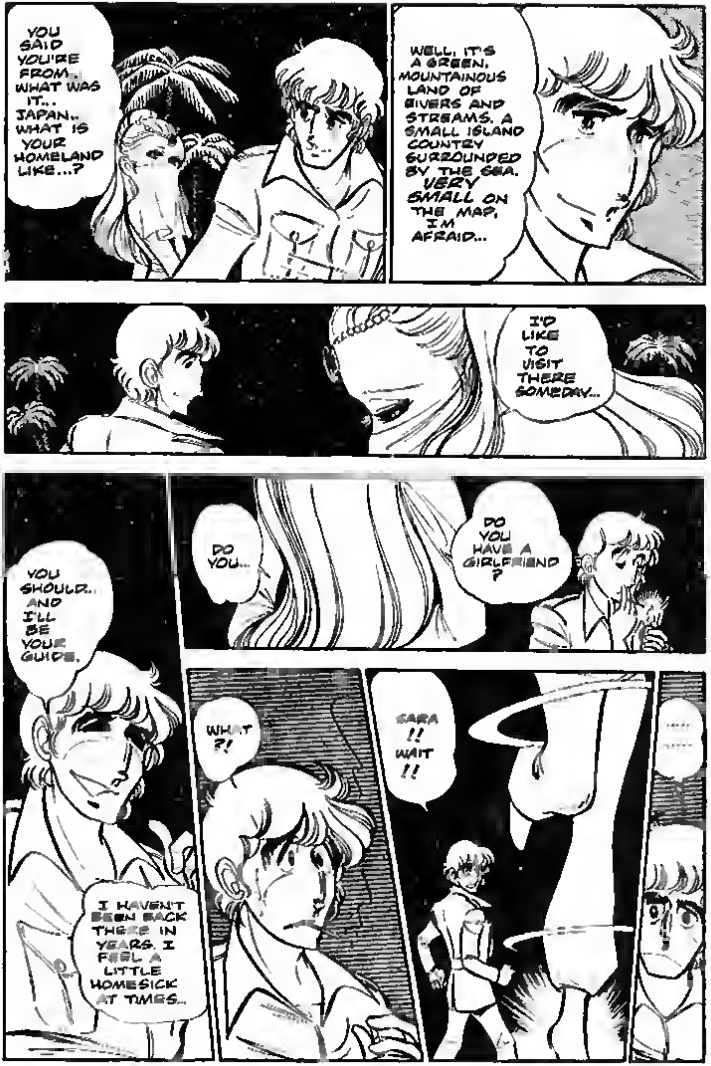
WHAT ?!
OH !!
WITH HIS HANDS !!
FATHER..
Uhhnn-- IT WON'T BUDGE !

SHIT
K-KILL ME!! YOU'VE WON!!
DONT BE STUPID! HUMAN LIFE IS TOO VALUABLE FOR IDIOTIC GAMES LIKE THIS!
BESIDES, I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY!

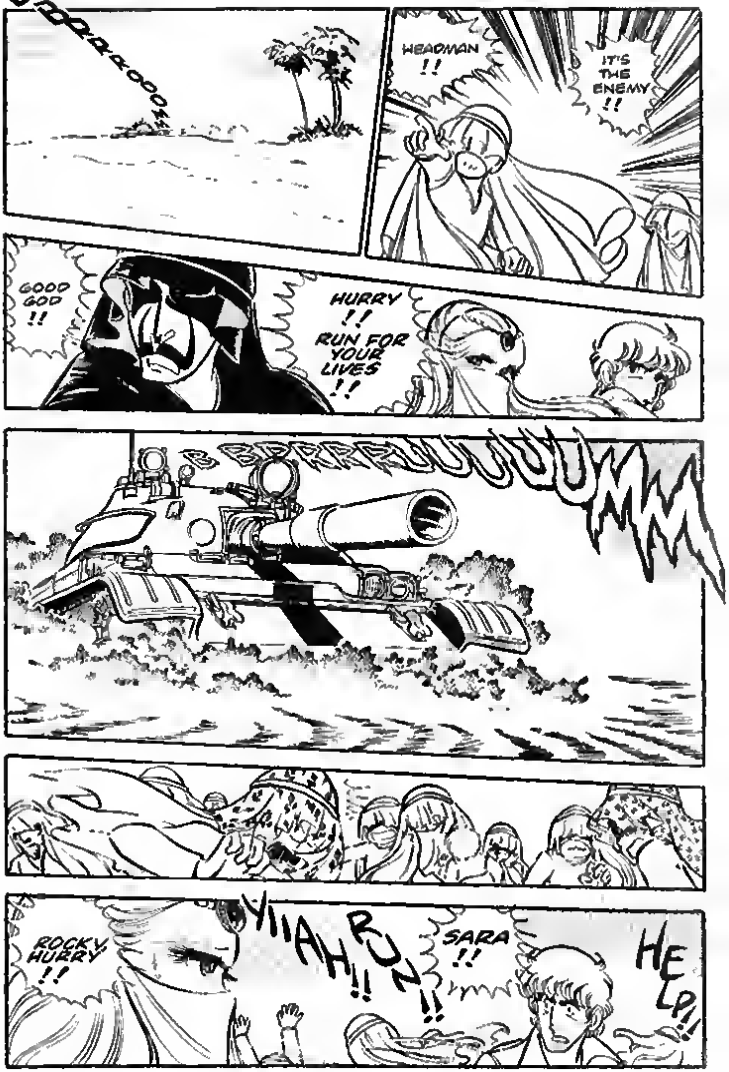

THE TECHNIQUE OF GRABBING THE BLADE WAS OKAY, BUT I SHOULD HAVE PRACTICED IT MORE.
THANK YOU.
WHAT?!
TH-THANK YOU FOR NOT KILLING MY FATHER.
ARE YOU HIS DAUGHTER?
SARA, ARE YOU FINISHED DRESSING HIS WOUND YET?
YES, FATHER.
YOU ARE AN EXCELLENT WARRIOR... YOU DEFEATED ME UTTERLY.

YOU WISH TO RETURN TO ASRAN...
YEAH, I'M COLLECTING STORIES OVER THERE.
BUT, I'LL BE HEADING BACK TO LONDON EVENTUALLY.
MY TRIBE USED TO SERVE IN THE ASRAN KINGDOM...
BUT THEN THE CIVIL WAR BROKE OUT TWO OR THREE YEARS AGO...
I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE KING FEELS IS RIGHT, BUT I ALSO EMPATHIZE WITH THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEADER, ABDAEL.
BOTH SIDES STARTED THE WAR IN ORDER TO MAKE THE KINGDOM A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.
WARS START THE SAME WAY EVERYWHERE.
YES, BUT IT IS ALWAYS THE MASSES WHO HAVE TO SUFFER.
.....

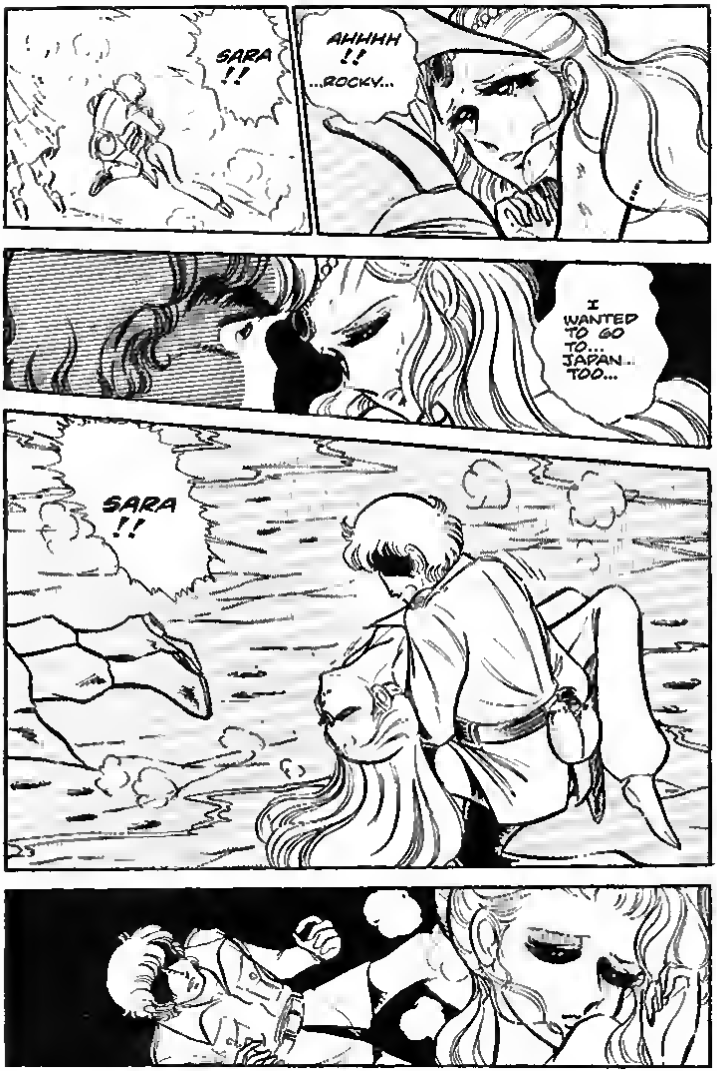
ONE DAY, SOME SOLDIERS OF THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES TRIED TO DESERT AND GO BACK TO THE ASRAN KINGDOM.
MY FATHER HELPED THEM ESCAPE TO THE KINGDOM..
MY FATHER DOESN'T BELONG TO EITHER SIDE. HE WANDERS IN THE DESERT WITH OUR TRIBE..
AND THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES ROUND OUT AND HAVE BEEN HARASSING YOU EVER SINCE... RIGHT?
ONE OF THE DESERTING SOLDIERS WAS A SPY, AND HE REPORTED EVERYTHING TO THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES.
HALF OUR TRIBE WAS KILLED..
THAT'S WHY YOU THOUGHT I WAS A SPY.
BUT DON'T WORRY NOW. YOU CAN GO BACK TO ASRAN IN THE MORNING.
ONE OF US WILL DRIVE YOU THERE
BUT I'D RATHER STAY HERE WITH YOU, SARA
Y-YEAH? THANKS.


YOU SAID YOU'RE FROM... WHAT WAS IT... JAPAN... WHAT IS YOUR HOMELAND LIKE...?
WELL, IT'S A GREEN, MOUNTAINOUS LAND OF RIVERS AND STREAMS. A SMALL ISLAND COUNTRY SURROUNDED BY THE SEA. VERY SMALL ON THE MAP, I'M AFRAID...
I'D LIKE TO VISIT THERE SOMEDAY...
DO YOU...
DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
YOU SHOULD.. AND I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE.
I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK THERE IN YEARS. I FEEL A LITTLE HOMESICK AT TIMES...
WHAT?!
SARA!! WAIT!!
.....
.....

TAKE CARE, YOUNG MAN.
THANKS. YOU TAKE CARE YOURSELF.
WHO IS THE COMMANDER OF THE BASE TO WHICH YOU ARE RETURNING?
SAKI... UH, WHAT'S HIS NAME? OH, YEAH-- SAKI VASHUTARL.
A GUY WITH LONG HAIR.
SAKI!!
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS STILL ALIVE...
DO YOU KNOW HIM?!
WHAT AN UNFORTUNATE MAN HE IS. STILL FIGHTING, EVER FIGHTING...
HE SHOULD REALIZE IT'S NOT HIS FAULT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!


BOOO

AH !!
KASHIM !!
HURRY!! COME HERE!!
SARA LOOK OUT !!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA


SARA !!
AHHHH !!
...ROCKY...
I WANTED TO GO TO... JAPAN... TOO...
SARA !!

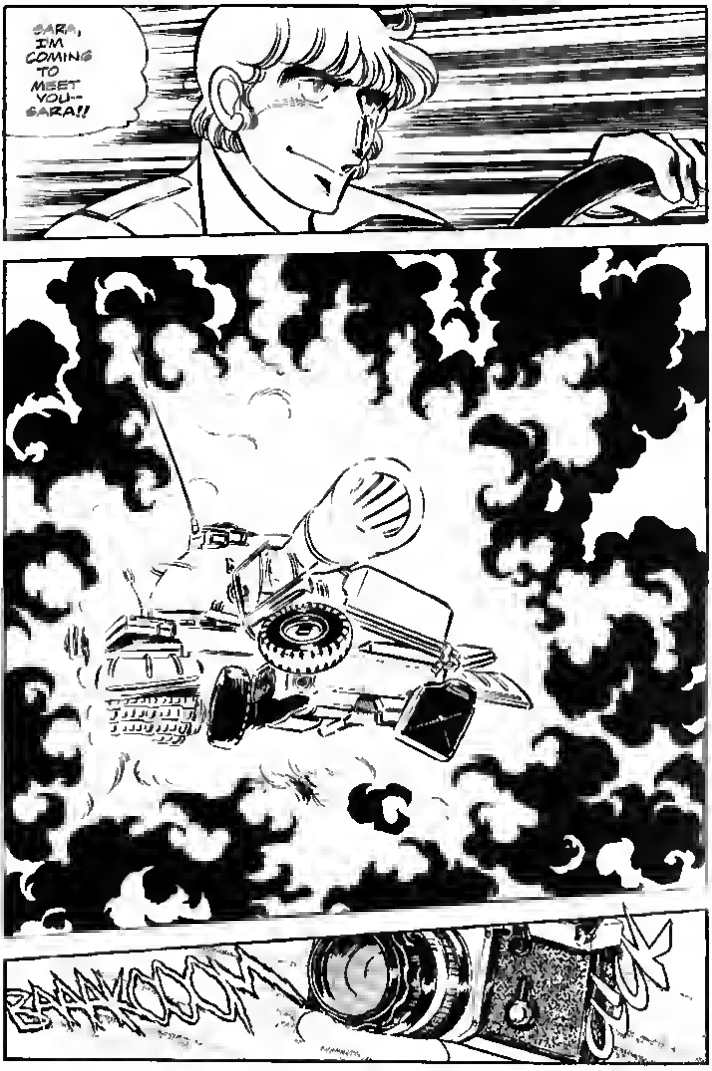
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
EEEEAHHH !!
AAR RRRGH!
STOP!! STOP IT!!
YOU CAN'T KILL DEFENSELESS PEOPLE!!
MY GOD!

STOP!! I'VE HAD ENOUGH !! STOP !!
VUUD
AHH!!
HEADMAN !!
SARA I MADE SARA GO WITH YOU..
I...I WANTED HER TO MARRY YOU AND NOT COME BACK... BACK TO THIS..
I WANTED HER TO TO LIVE IN A PEACEFUL LAND.
YOU CAN LAUGH AT ME FOR... BEING A STUPID FATHER..

HEADMAN.
I HATE KILLING... WHATEVER REASON YOU HAVE, ONCE YOU'VE MURDERED SOMEONE YOU'RE A KILLER FOR LIFE.
IT'S NOT THE KIND OF THING A DECENT MAN DOES..
BUT THE MEN IN THAT TANK..
I HATE YOU BASTARDS !!!

JUMP
CRACK
SO LONG, OLD CAMERA. IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL PARTNERSHIP
CLICK
BROOM

BRREEK-
EEK
EEK-
EEK
VARROOOM


SARA, IM COMING TO MEET YOU-- SARA!!
KRAAKOOOM
CRASH

THEN, ROCKY'S DEAD..?
THE ONLY THING A WAR CORRESPONDENT EVER LEAVES BEHIND IS A BROKEN CAMERA.
ROCKY...
DON'T BE SO DOWN, SHIN. HE DIDN'T DIE FOR NOTHING...
HE'S PROBABLY HAPPY NOW... UP THERE IN HEAVEN.
NO.. HE'S STILL ALIVE...

HE TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE DIES, SO DOES HIS CAMERA..
ZHHHAAAT
Nikon
Nikon
KASSSHT
THIS CAMERA'S STILL ALIVE..
SAKI !!
PLEASE DON'T WRITE HIS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT. IM SURE HE'S GOING TO RETURN.
HE'LL COME TO GET HIS CAMERA..

A SHUTTER IS PUSHED, MAKING A DRY SOUND AGAINST THE ARID SAND...
IT SOUNDS AS IF IT HAS CUT THE LIGHT FROM A MAN'S LIFE...
THIS IS AREA 88...
THE LAND OF FIRE WHERE MEN RISK THEIR LIVES...